MARVEL COMICS
A HERO POSSESSED!
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™
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208
JAN
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION
. . . AND NOW CRIMSON DEATH LOOMS OVER THE SHROUD™!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**

FEAR EATS THE SOUL

WHAT?! GREGSON AND HIS MEN--WEARING THOSE STRANGE FLYING MASKS?!
BUT THEY WERE UNCONSCIOUS! THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN OUT FOR HOURS!
AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN RICH, SHROUD, BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN EITHER!
MAYBE THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING IS WHAT'S WEARING WHO HERE?

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JOE ROSEN — Letterer
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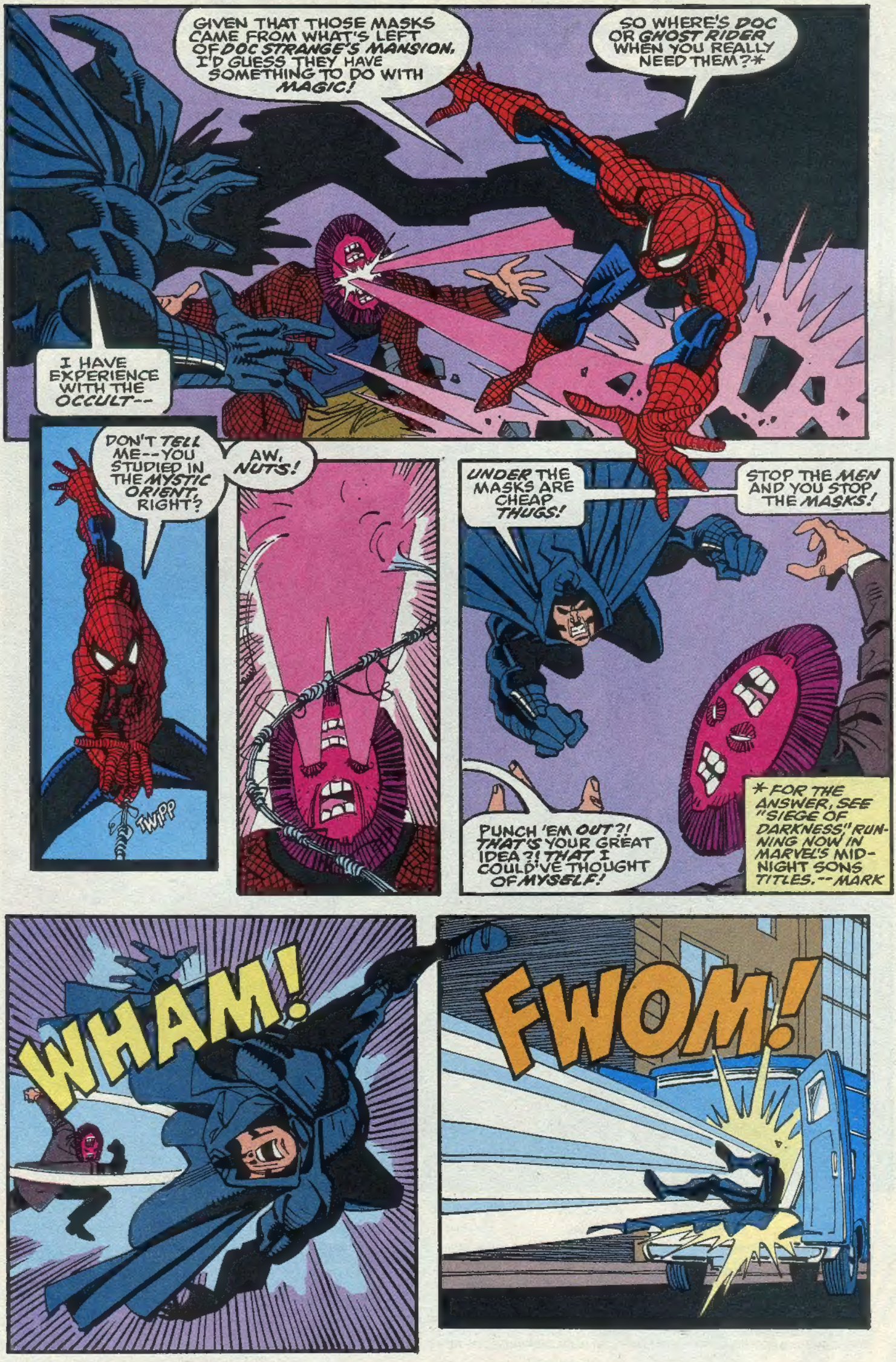
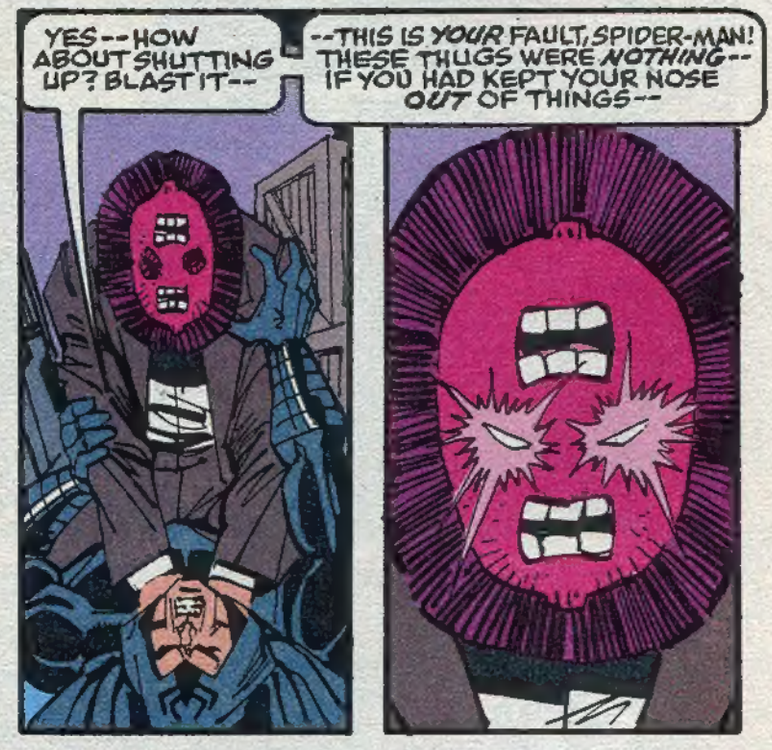
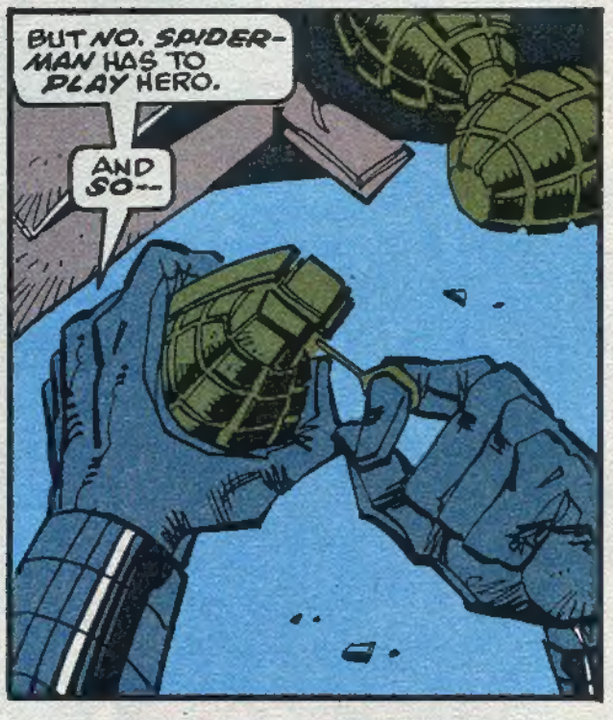

GIVEN THAT THOSE MASKS CAME FROM WHAT'S LEFT OF DOC STRANGE'S MANSION, I'D GUESS THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MAGIC!
SO WHERE'S DOC OR GHOST RIDER WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM?*
I HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE OCCULT--
DON'T TELL ME--YOU STUDIED IN THE MYSTIC ORIENT, RIGHT?
TWPP
AW, NUTS!
UNDER THE MASKS ARE CHEAP THUGS!
STOP THE MEN AND YOU STOP THE MASKS!
PUNCH 'EM OUT?! THAT'S YOUR GREAT IDEA?! THAT I COULD'VE THOUGHT OF MYSELF!
* FOR THE ANSWER, SEE "SIEGE OF DARKNESS," RUNNING NOW IN MARVEL'S MIDNIGHT SONS TITLES. -- MARK
WHAM!
FWOM!

OOOOKAY... SO THEY'VE GOT SUPER-STRENGTH NOW, TOO...
...BUT START WITH THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER, ADD A PINCH OF SPIDER-SPEED--
--THERE'S A RECIPE FOR POWER!

OR NOT. THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR FLUNKING HOME EC...
SHROUD? YOU DONE FOOLING AROUND OVER THERE? ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS?

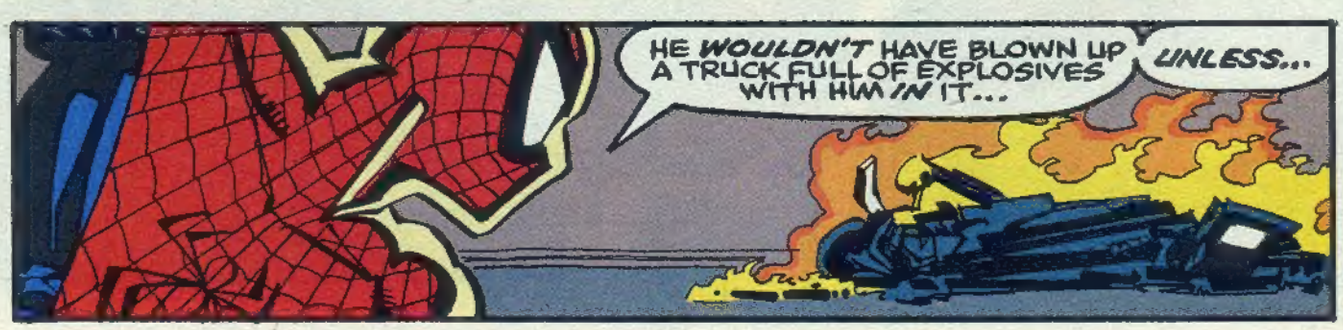

YES--HOW ABOUT SHUTTING UP? BLAST IT--
--THIS IS YOUR FAULT, SPIDER-MAN! THESE THUGS WERE NOTHING-- IF YOU HAD KEPT YOUR NOSE OUT OF THINGS--

--I'D HAVE HIJACKED THEIR MUNITIONS TRUCK--
--AND WE'D BOTH BE BETTER OFF RIGHT NOW!


BUT NO. SPIDER-MAN HAS TO PLAY HERO.
AND SO--

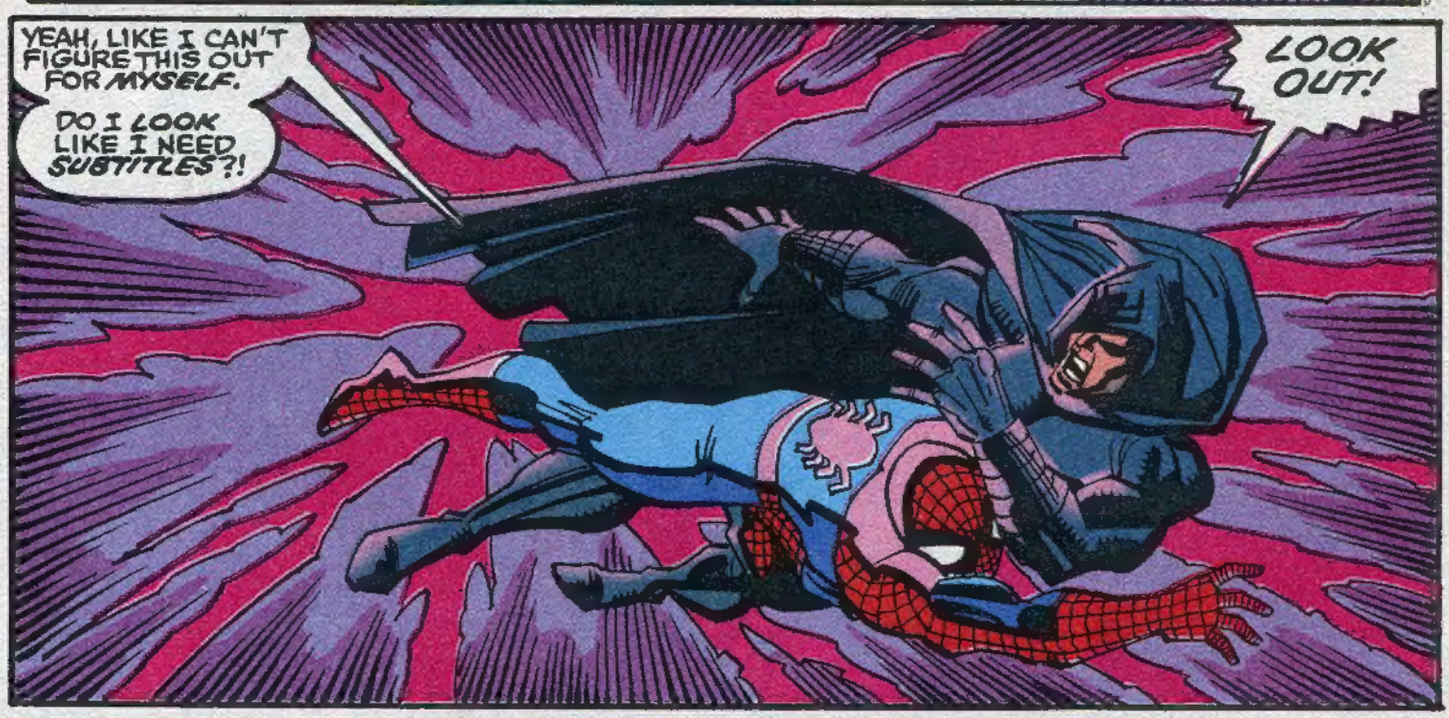
BOOM!
NO!

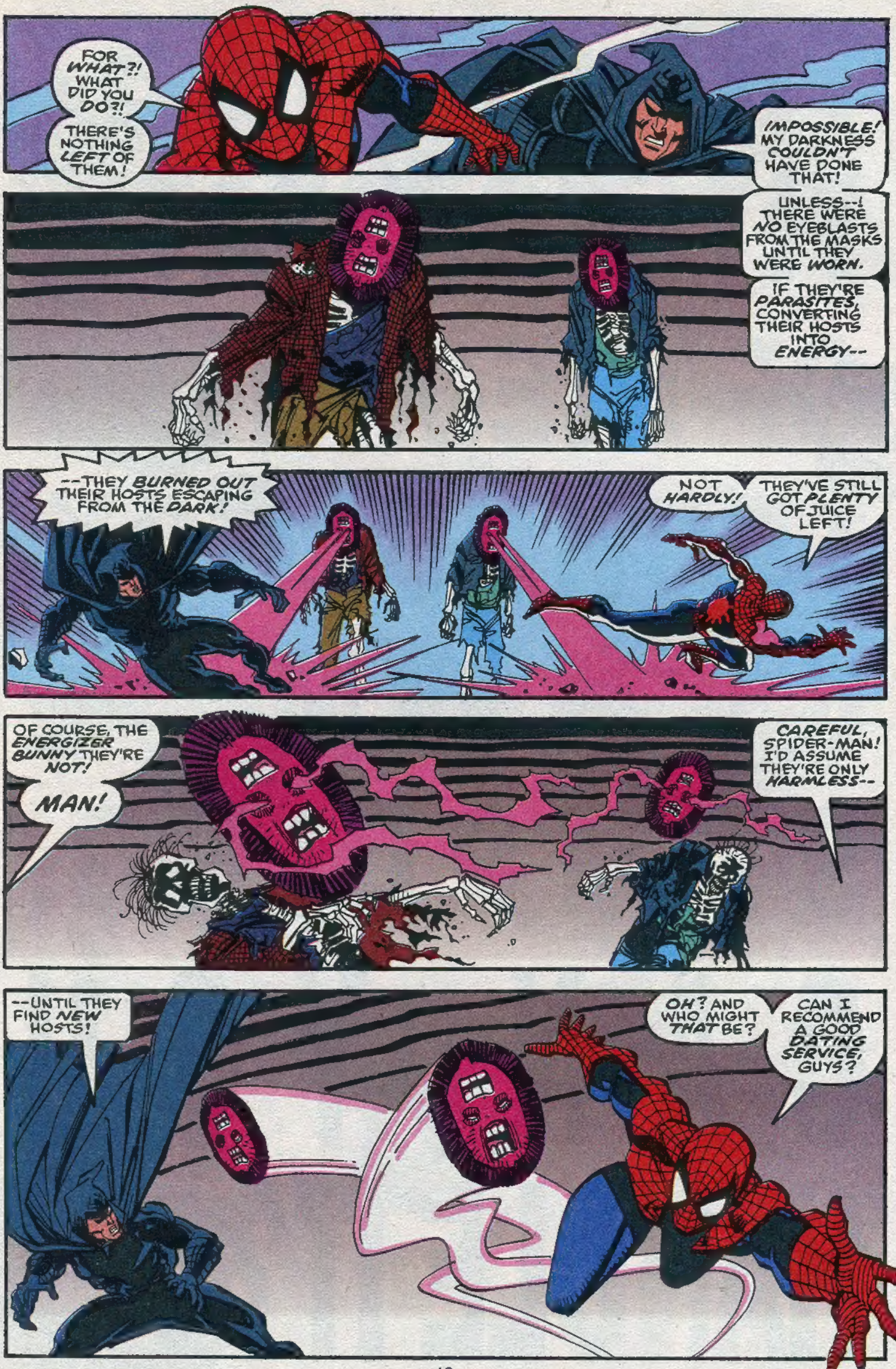
IT'S A TRICK!
THE SHROUD'S FULL OF TRICKS!

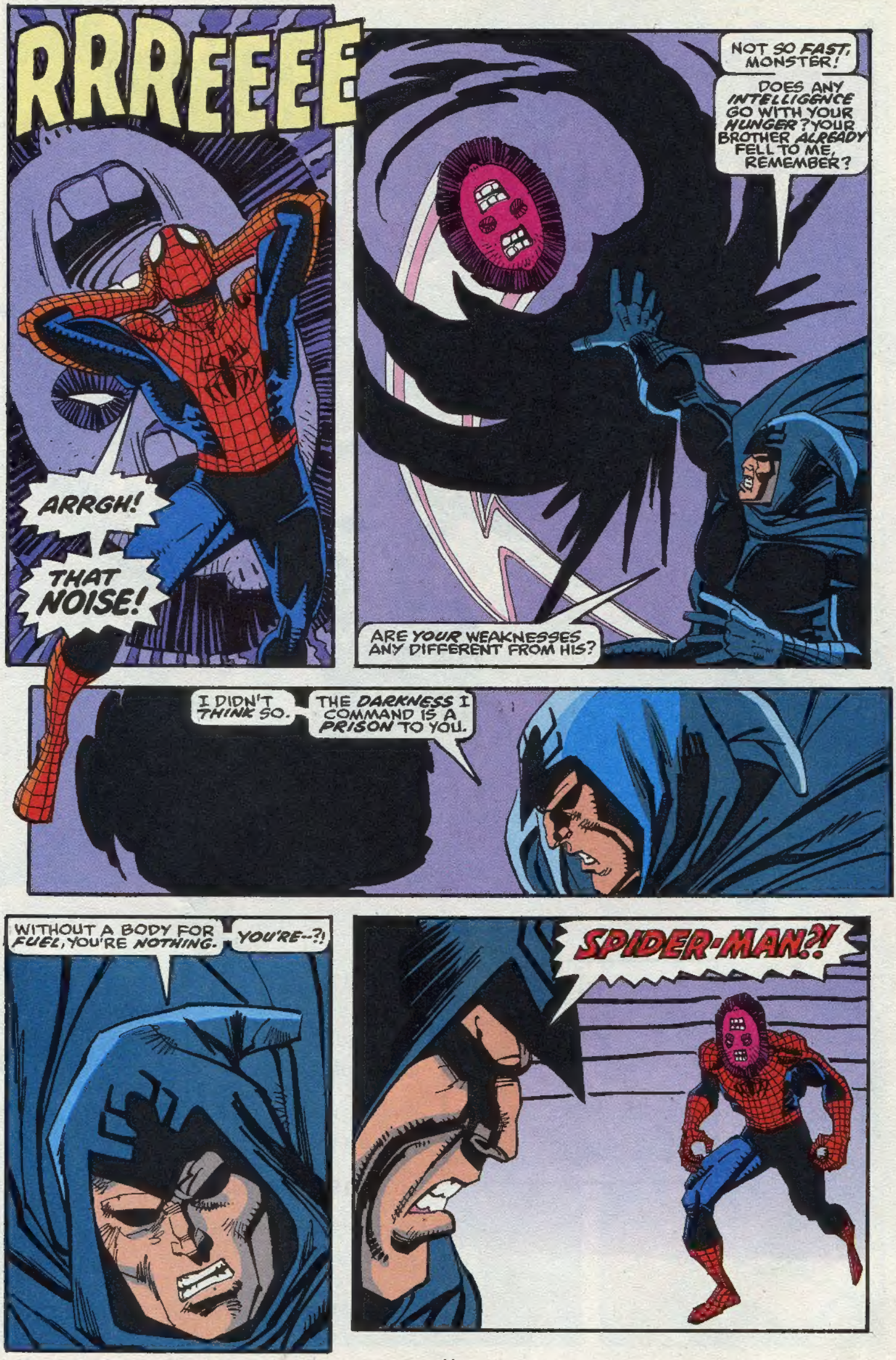

HE WOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP A TRUCK FULL OF EXPLOSIVES WITH HIM IN IT...
UNLESS...

UNLESS HE KNEW HE COULDN'T SURVIVE, SO HE DECIDED TO TAKE HIS ENEMY WITH HIM!
BUT--WOULD HE REALLY DO THAT?
NOT THAT I'M DOING MUCH BETTER...
HI, GUYS.
Y'KNOW, A LITTLE VISINE WOULD CLEAR THAT REDNESS RIGHT UP!
WHA--?!
DARKNESS SWALLOWING THEM?! THEIR EYEBEAMS CAN'T PASS THROUGH IT!
THE SHROUD IS ALIVE!
AND I'VE SEPARATED ONE MASK FROM ITS WEARER. IT SEEMS ALL BUT POWERLESS NOW.
I ALSO MANAGED TO PULL THIS WORTHLESS SCUM OUT BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.
BUT I APPRECIATE YOUR GRIEF AT THE THOUGHT OF MY DEMISE, SPIDER-MAN.
YEAH?

APPRECIATE THIS, GRUESOME!
THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY CROOKS AROUND HERE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT?
I'M ALL THAT'S CONTAINING THOSE MASKS.
ARE YOU WILLING TO UNLEASH A POTENTIALLY UNSTOPPABLE MENACE ON YOUR CITY--
--JUST TO GET ME?
THAT SCREAMING AGAIN! HOW--?!
SSSSKKRRREEE
TELL ME AGAIN WHAT'S CONTAINING THEM.
I FORGOT TO TAKE NOTES.
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE! I CAN'T MAINTAIN THE DARKNESS!

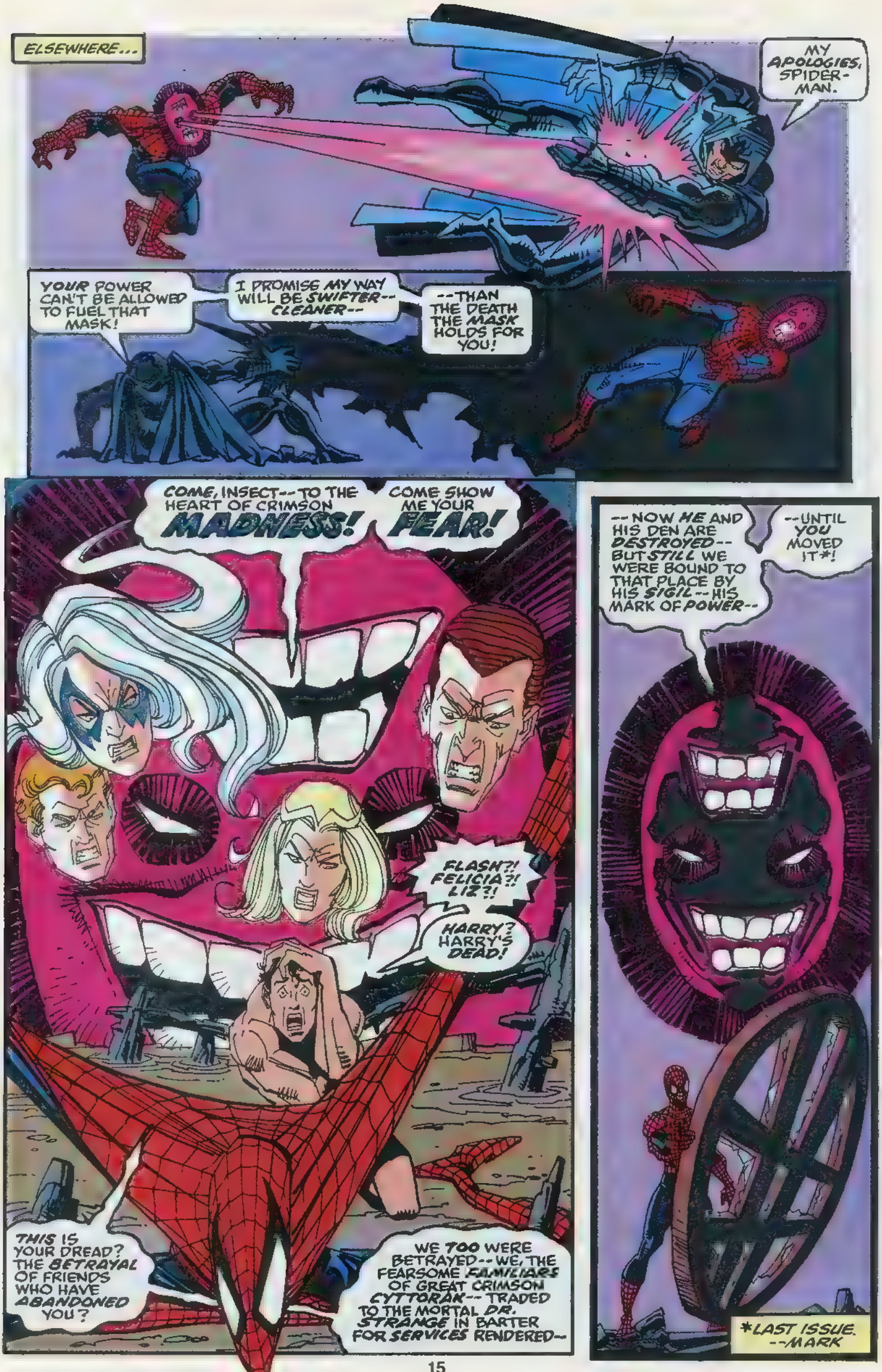

YEAH, LIKE I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT FOR MYSELF.
DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED SUBTITLES?!
LOOK OUT!


FOR WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THEM!
IMPOSSIBLE! MY DARKNESS COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
UNLESS--! THERE WERE NO EYEBLASTS FROM THE MASKS UNTIL THEY WERE WORN.
IF THEY'RE PARASITES, CONVERTING THEIR HOSTS INTO ENERGY--
--THEY BURNED OUT THEIR HOSTS ESCAPING FROM THE DARK!
NOT HARDLY!
THEY'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF JUICE LEFT!
OF COURSE, THE ENERGIZER BUNNY THEY'RE NOT!
MAN!
CAREFUL, SPIDER-MAN! I'D ASSUME THEY'RE ONLY HARMLESS--
--UNTIL THEY FIND NEW HOSTS!
OH? AND WHO MIGHT THAT BE?
CAN I RECOMMEND A GOOD DATING SERVICE, GUYS?


RRREEEE
ARRGH!
THAT NOISE!
NOT SO FAST, MONSTER!
DOES ANY INTELLIGENCE GO WITH YOUR HUNGER? YOUR BROTHER ALREADY FELL TO ME, REMEMBER?
ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES ANY DIFFERENT FROM HIS?
I DIDN'T THINK SO.
THE DARKNESS I COMMAND IS A PRISON TO YOU.
WITHOUT A BODY FOR FUEL, YOU'RE NOTHING.
YOU'RE--?!
SPIDER-MAN?!

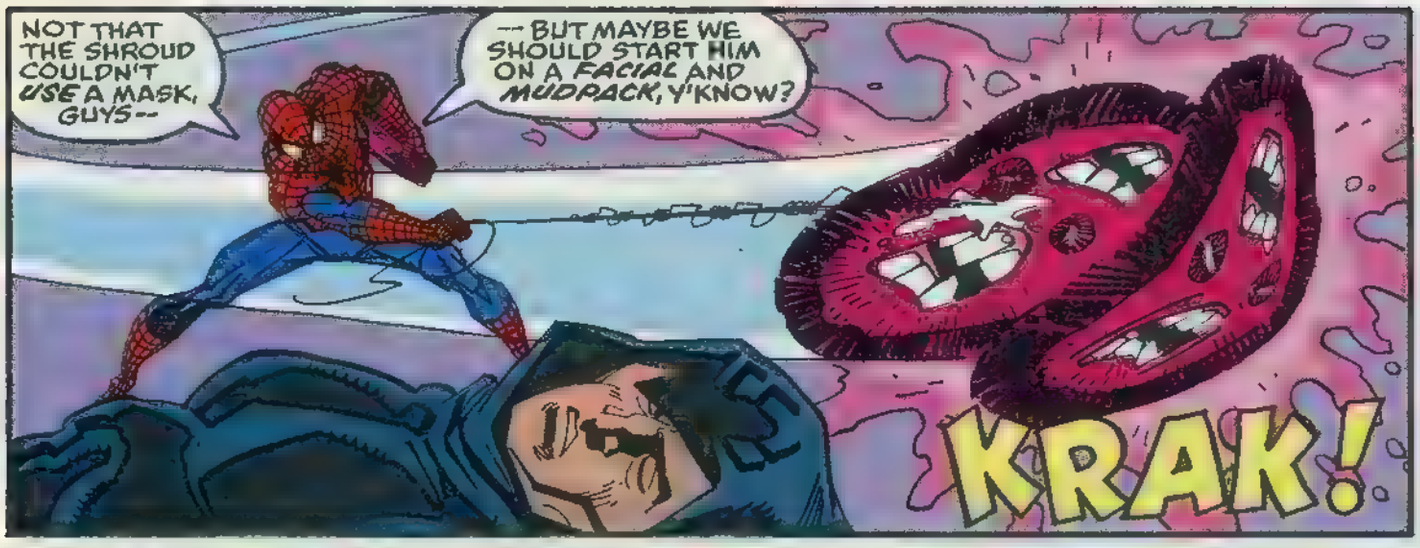
ARE YOU STILL THERE? I WAS GETTING WOR--
YES, YOU DID SAY YOU'D BE WORKING LA--
BUT--
WHAT? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YES, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS IMPOR--
BUT--
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT! IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS!
YOU'RE MARRIED TO ME, NOT THAT--
STOP PROMISING ME THINGS!
JUST DO THEM!
SLAM!
I'M NOT STUPID.
HOW COULD I HAVE EVER THOUGHT--?
I FEEL SO ALONE.
HELLO? THIS IS... IT'S MARLA.
I-- I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO...

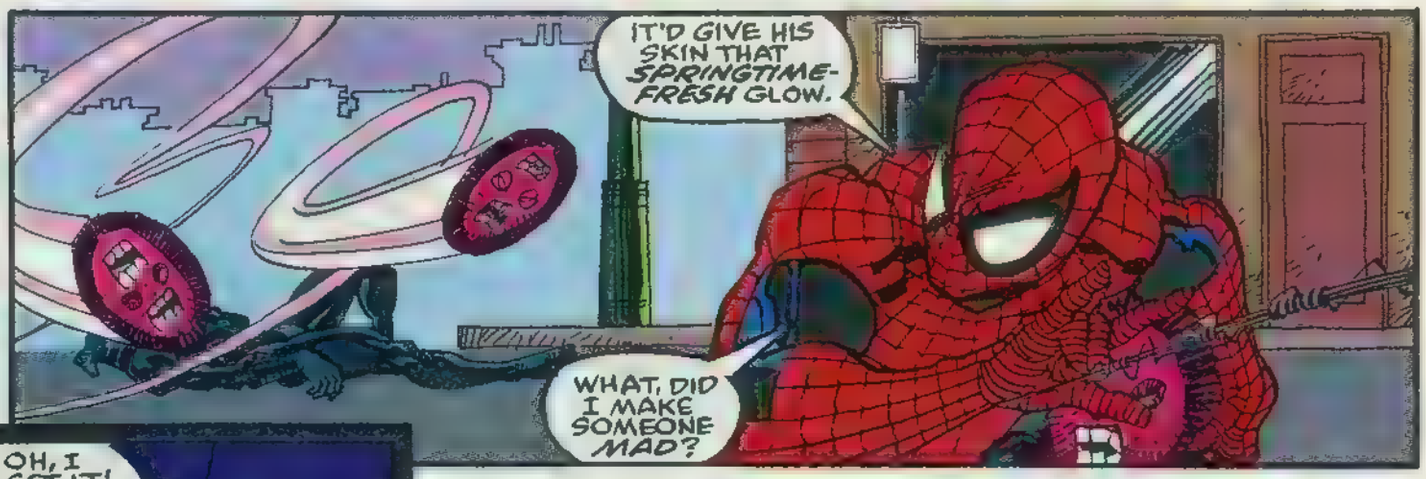
TROUBLE AT HOME, JONAH?
MARLA'S JUST A BIT OUT OF SORTS.
DAILY BUGLE
SHE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND MY HOURS... YOU KNOW HOW WOMEN ARE ABOUT BUSINESS...
I'M NOT SURE I DO.
WE'RE NOT HERE TO DISCUSS MY HOME LIFE.
I THINK THE BUGLE'S NEW DESIGN IS FINE. I SAY WE GO WITH IT.
BUT THE CONTENT STILL ISN'T RIGHT.
JONAH, THE WASHINGTON POST WOULD JUMP AT ANY OF OUR STORIES.
THAT RAG.
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS? WE NEED SOME PHOTOS.
SPIDER-MAN... THAT STINKING WALLCRAWLER... THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT...
...THE PEOPLE WON'T BELIEVE HE'S A MENACE ...NO... THEY'RE LAUGHING AT US...
NO! HE'S THE OLD BUGLE!
THE NEW BUGLE OPERATES ON A HIGHER STANDARD THAN THAT!
SPIDER-MAN SELLS PAPERS, JONAH.
WE'VE GOT OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.
UH... WITH YOUR APPROVAL, I'D LIKE TO ELIMINATE THE WALLCRAWLER FROM THE BUGLE -- UNLESS HE'S LEGITIMATE NEWS.
SHORT OF THAT, HE SHOULDN'T BE MENTIONED IN OUR PAGES ANYMORE.
UNLESS IT'S ON THE OBITUARY PAGE...

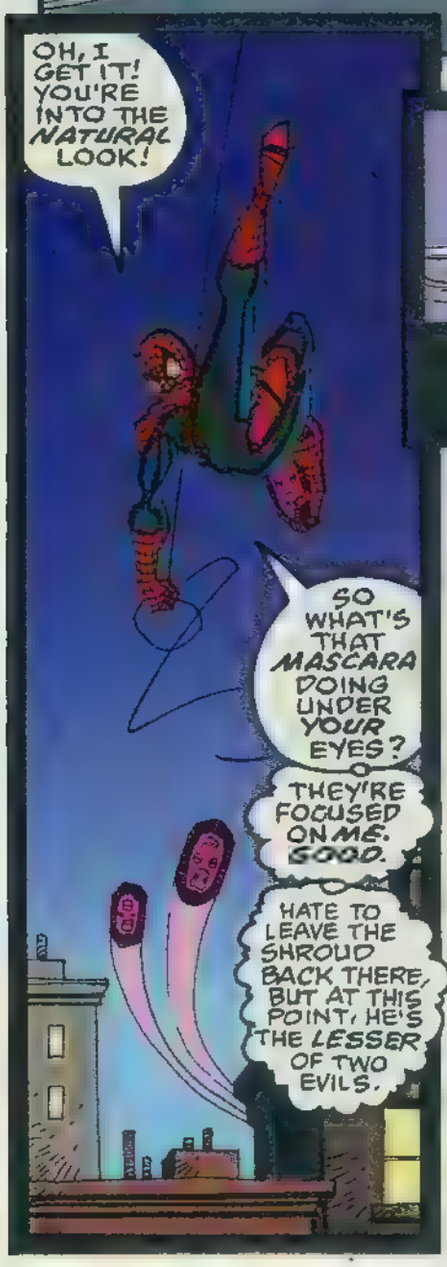

ELSEWHERE...
MY APOLOGIES, SPIDER-MAN.
YOUR POWER CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO FUEL THAT MASK!
I PROMISE MY WAY WILL BE SWIFTER-- CLEANER--
--THAN THE DEATH THE MASK HOLDS FOR YOU!
COME, INSECT-- TO THE HEART OF CRIMSON MADNESS!
COME SHOW ME YOUR FEAR!
FLASH?! FELICIA?! LIZ?!
HARRY? HARRY'S DEAD!
THIS IS YOUR DREAD? THE BETRAYAL OF FRIENDS WHO HAVE ABANDONED YOU?
WE TOO WERE BETRAYED-- WE, THE FEARSOME FAMILIARS OF GREAT CRIMSON CYTTORAK-- TRADED TO THE MORTAL DR. STRANGE IN BARTER FOR SERVICES RENDERED--
-- NOW HE AND HIS DEN ARE DESTROYED-- BUT STILL WE WERE BOUND TO THAT PLACE BY HIS SIGIL-- HIS MARK OF POWER--
--UNTIL YOU MOVED IT*!
*LAST ISSUE. --MARK

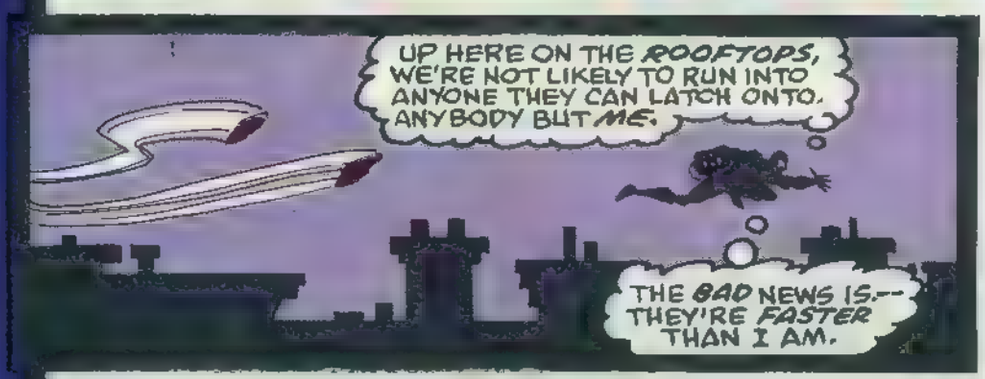
FEAR IS LIFE! LIFE IS FEAR!
IT IS THE WINE WE GUZZLE, THE MEAT WE DEVOUR!
THOSE OTHERS WERE ALL FEAR, BURNED QUICKLY. BUT YOU ARE MORE SATISFYING AND CAN BE SAVORED FOR A LONG WHILE--
GUESS AGAIN!
SURE, I'M AFRAID SOMETIMES.
BUT I HAVE PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME. MY AUNT... MY PARENTS... MY WIFE...
SO FEAR JUST DOESN'T MEAN THAT MUCH TO ME ANYMORE.
BY THE WAY, WHEN IT COMES TO MIND GAMES, YOU'RE REALLY THIRD CLASS. I'VE BEATEN BETTER NONSENSE IN MY SLEEP.
LOVE? WHAT IS--?
FEAR IS LIFE! LIFE IS FEAR!
YOU ARE FOOD!
ODD. THEY'RE FROZEN IN PLACE. DISTRACTED.
LEAVING SPIDER-MAN OPEN TO ATTACK.
HE'S STRONG, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE MY TRAINING -- MY KNOWLEDGE OF MARTIAL ARTS...
PERHAPS IF I CONCENTRATE ALL MY WILL INTO A SINGLE BLOW--

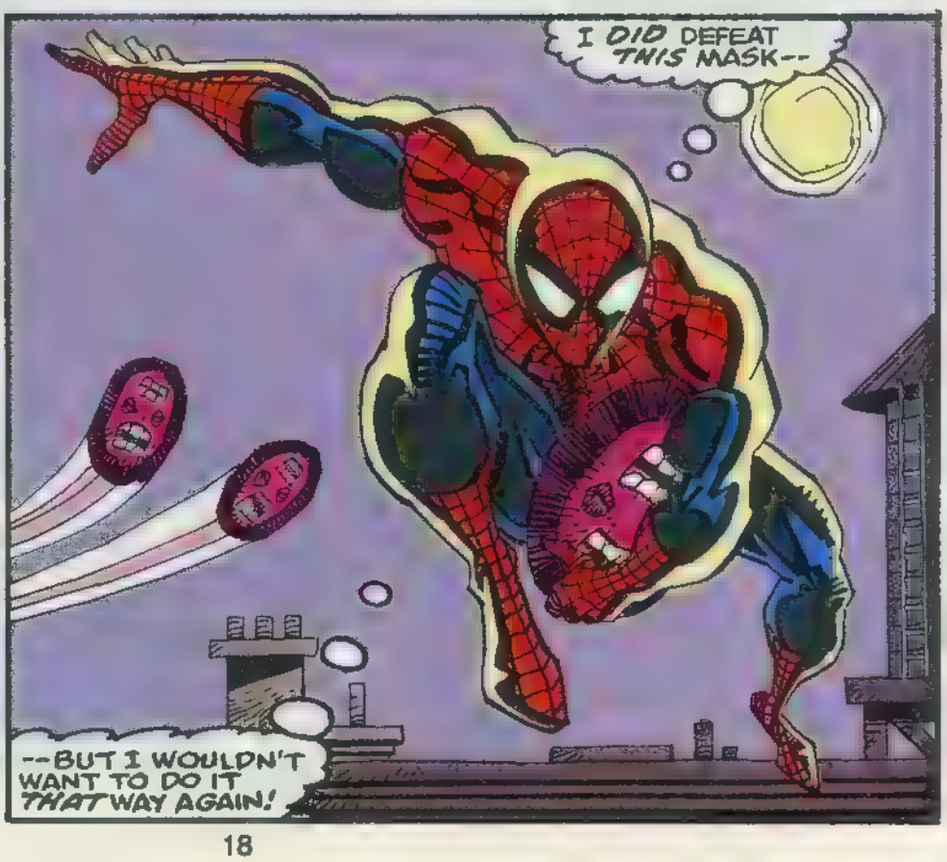
WHAM!
SHOULDN'T TRY TO HIT A MAN WITH GLASSES ON.
HEY, WAITAMINIT! THIS ISN'T GLASSES!
OH YEAH, THE MASK. WH'OPPENED?
NAUGHTY NAUGHTY!
SRRREEEEE
WISH I COULD SAY THAT ABOUT THOSE TWO.
SEEMS INERT ENOUGH, LIKE IT'S IN SHOCK.
NO SHROUD, NO DARKNESS, NO WAY TO KEEP THE MASKS IN CHECK. GREAT.
THWIPP
WISH THEY'D KNOCK OFF THE WHINING! SOUNDS LIKE A DENTIST'S DRILL!
AND HERE I AM OVERDUE FOR A CHECKUP!
UH-OH!


NOT THAT THE SHROUD COULDN'T USE A MASK, GUYS--
--BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD START HIM ON A FACIAL AND MUDPACK, Y'KNOW?
KRAK!

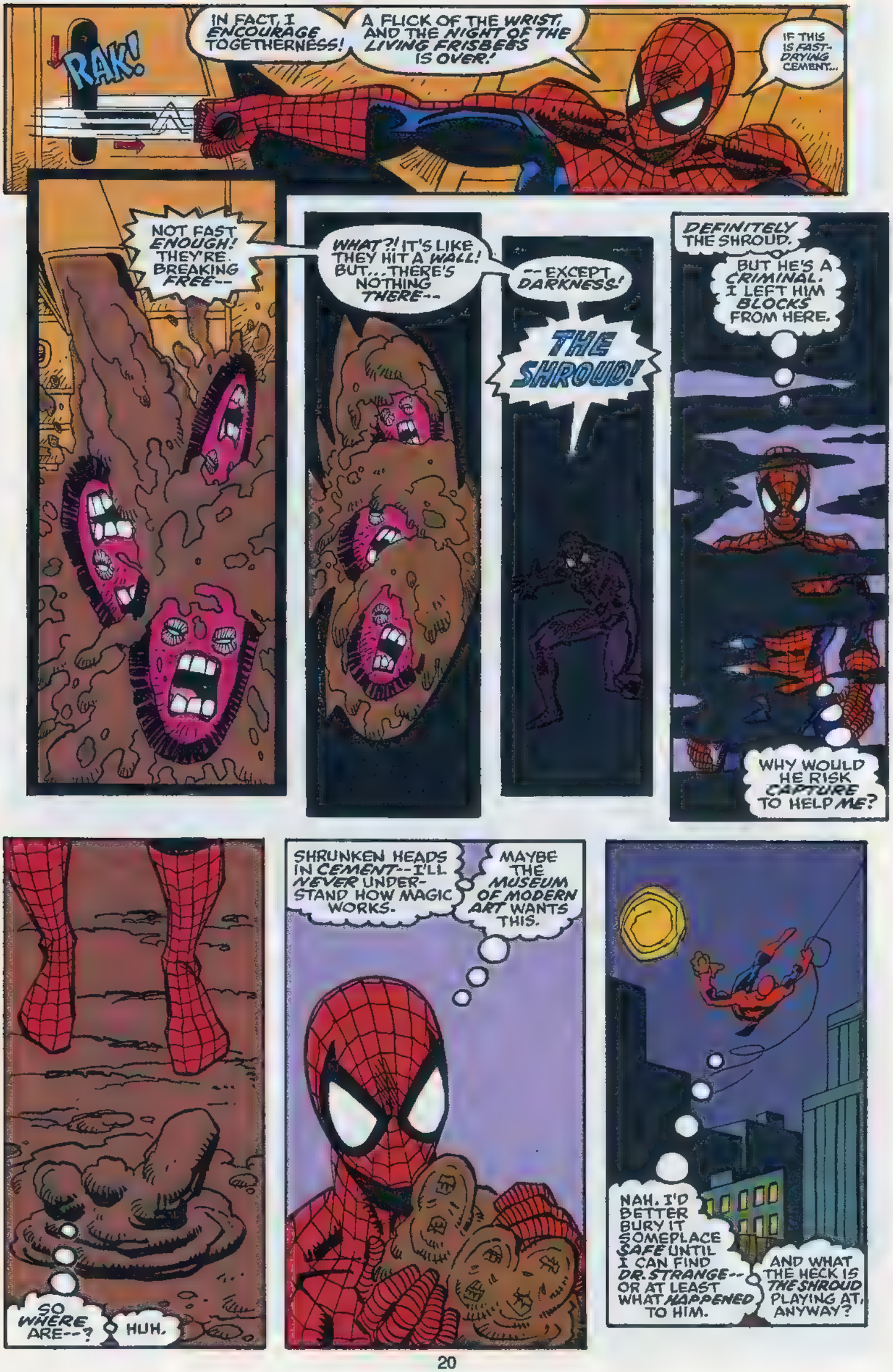

IT'D GIVE HIS SKIN THAT SPRINGTIME-FRESH GLOW.
WHAT, DID I MAKE SOMEONE MAD?

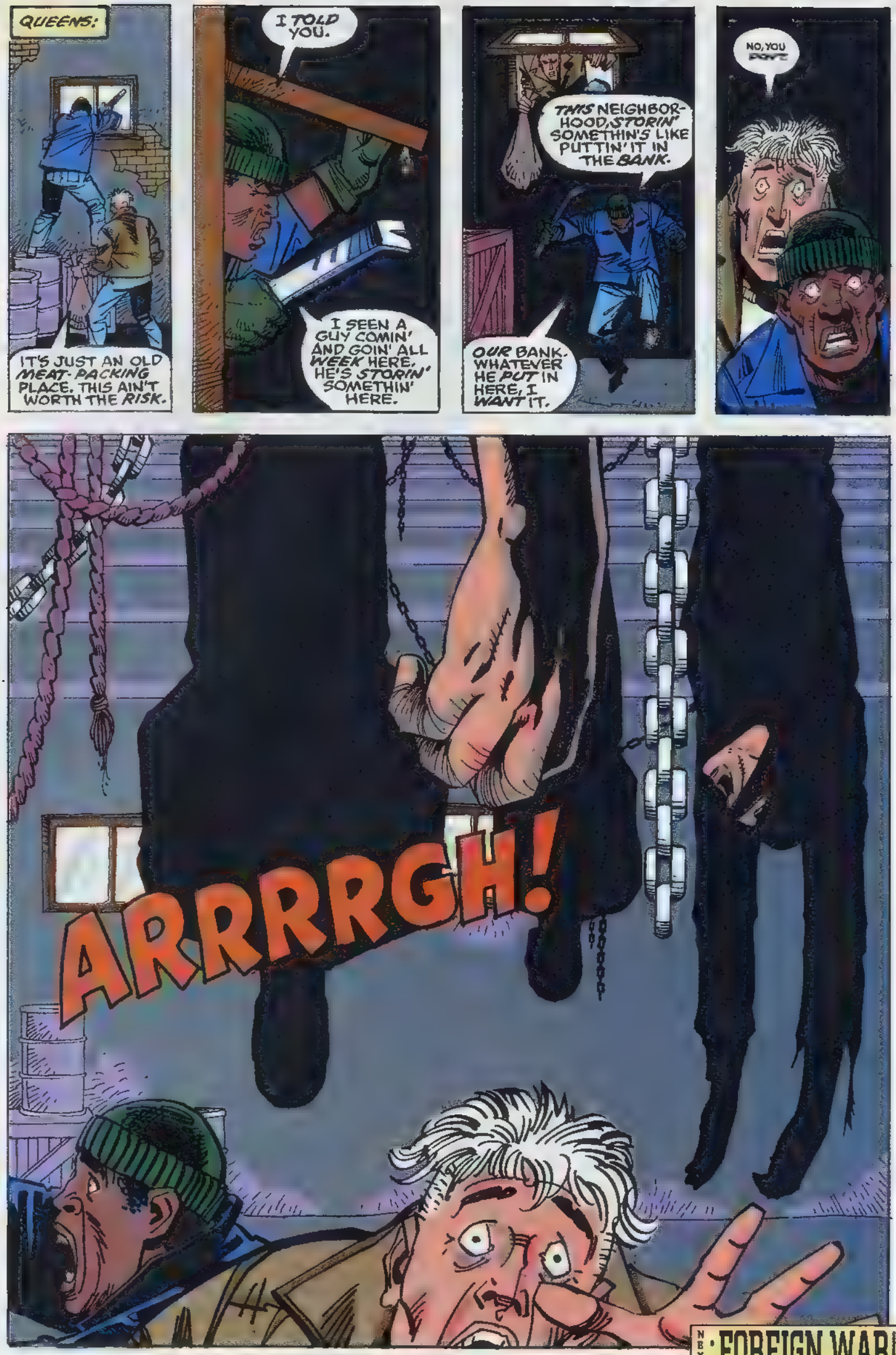

OH, I GET IT! YOU'RE INTO THE NATURAL LOOK!
SO WHAT'S THAT MASCARA DOING UNDER YOUR EYES?
THEY'RE FOCUSED ON ME. GOOD.
HATE TO LEAVE THE SHROUD BACK THERE, BUT AT THIS POINT, HE'S THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS.

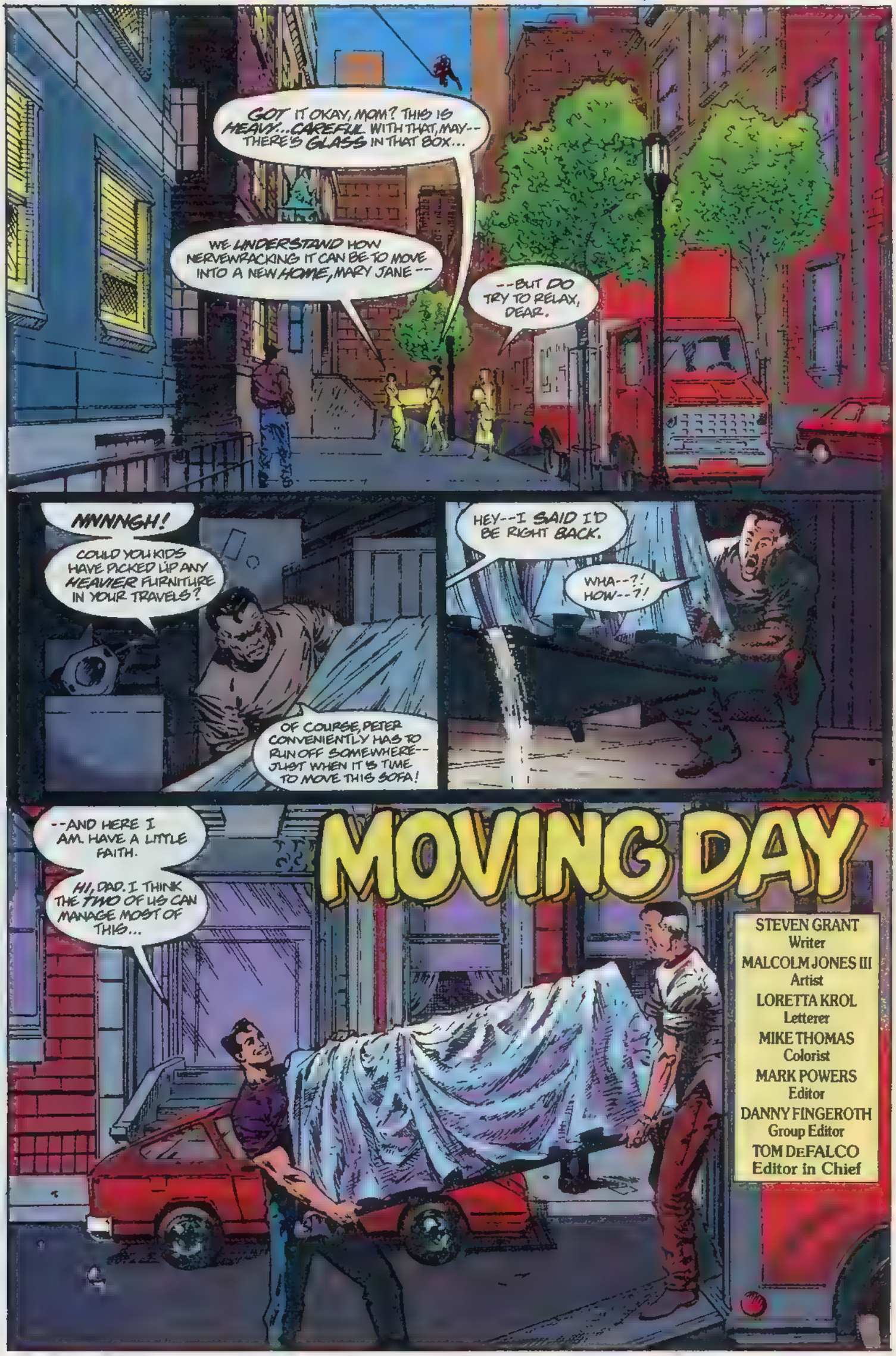

UP HERE ON THE ROOFTOPS, WE'RE NOT LIKELY TO RUN INTO ANYONE THEY CAN LATCH ONTO. ANYBODY BUT ME.
THE BAD NEWS IS.-- THEY'RE FASTER THAN I AM.


I DID DEFEAT THIS MASK--
--BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT THAT WAY AGAIN!

ON THE OTHER HAND, HERE'S SOMETHING THAT COULD MAKE ME A GAMBLING MAN.
I ALWAYS DID PREFER GAMES OF SKILL AND TIMING.
ONE--
KLIK!
SKREEEEE
TWO--
EVEN WITHOUT MY SPIDER-SENSES, IT'D BE HARD TO MISS THEM COMING IN!
R EEEEE
COME ON. STAY TOGETHER. COME ON.
GOOD BOYS!
WAM!
NOW!
WHO AM I TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A FAMILY REUNION?!


RAK!
IN FACT, I ENCOURAGE TOGETHERNESS!
A FLICK OF THE WRIST, AND THE NIGHT OF THE LIVING FRISBEES IS OVER!
IF THIS IS FAST-DRYING CEMENT...
NOT FAST ENOUGH! THEY'RE BREAKING FREE--
WHAT?! IT'S LIKE THEY HIT A WALL! BUT...THERE'S NOTHING THERE--
--EXCEPT DARKNESS!
THE SHROUD!
DEFINITELY THE SHROUD.
BUT HE'S A CRIMINAL. I LEFT HIM BLOCKS FROM HERE.
WHY WOULD HE RISK CAPTURE TO HELP ME?
SO WHERE ARE--?
HUH.
SHRUNKEN HEADS IN CEMENT--I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW MAGIC WORKS.
MAYBE THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART WANTS THIS.
NAH. I'D BETTER BURY IT SOMEPLACE SAFE UNTIL I CAN FIND DR. STRANGE--OR AT LEAST WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.
AND WHAT THE HECK IS THE SHROUD PLAYING AT, ANYWAY?


QUEENS:
IT'S JUST AN OLD MEAT-PACKING PLACE. THIS AIN'T WORTH THE RISK.
I TOLD YOU.
I SEEN A GUY COMIN' AND GOIN' ALL WEEK HERE. HE'S STORIN' SOMETHIN' HERE.
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, STORIN' SOMETHIN'S LIKE PUTTIN' IT IN THE BANK.
OUR BANK. WHATEVER HE PUT IN HERE, I WANT IT.
NO, YOU DON'T.
ARRRRGH!
NEXT: FOREIGN WAR!


GOT IT OKAY, MOM? THIS IS HEAVY...CAREFUL WITH THAT, MAY-- THERE'S GLASS IN THAT BOX...
WE UNDERSTAND HOW NERVEWRACKING IT CAN BE TO MOVE INTO A NEW HOME, MARY JANE --
--BUT DO TRY TO RELAX, DEAR.
MMNNGH!
COULD YOU KIDS HAVE PICKED UP ANY HEAVIER FURNITURE IN YOUR TRAVELS?
OF COURSE, PETER CONVENIENTLY HAS TO RUN OFF SOMEWHERE-- JUST WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE THIS SOFA!
HEY--I SAID I'D BE RIGHT BACK.
WHA--?! HOW--?!
--AND HERE I AM. HAVE A LITTLE FAITH.
HI, DAD. I THINK THE TWO OF US CAN MANAGE MOST OF THIS...
MOVING DAY
STEVEN GRANT
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MALCOLM JONES III
Artist
LORETTA KROL
Letterer
MIKE THOMAS
Colorist
MARK POWERS
Editor
DANNY FINGEROTH
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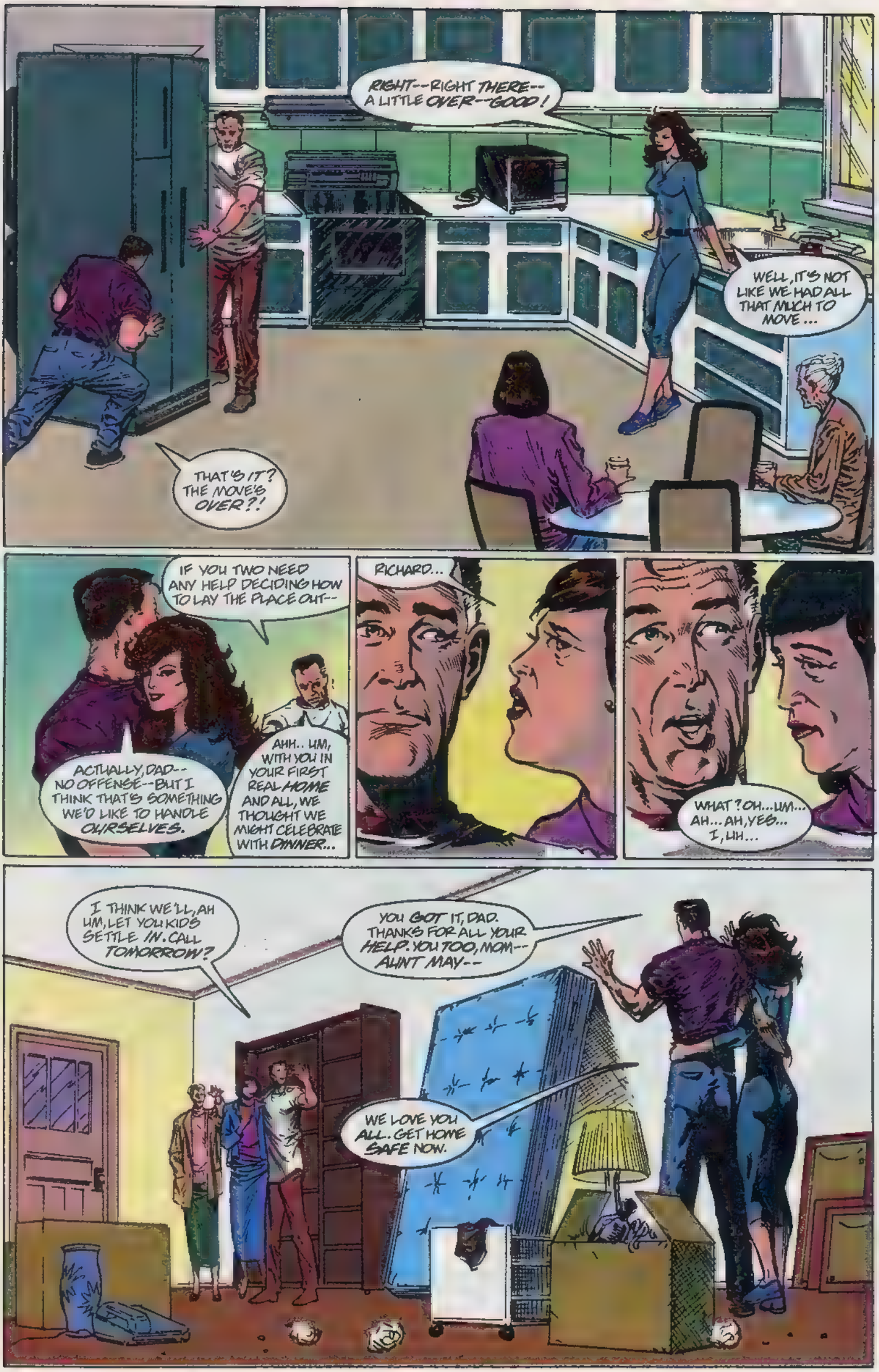

RIGHT--RIGHT THERE--A LITTLE OVER--GOOD!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD ALL THAT MUCH TO MOVE...
THAT'S IT? THE MOVE'S OVER?!
IF YOU TWO NEED ANY HELP DECIDING HOW TO LAY THE PLACE OUT--
ACTUALLY, DAD--NO OFFENSE--BUT I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO HANDLE OURSELVES.
AHH.. UM, WITH YOU IN YOUR FIRST REAL HOME AND ALL, WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT CELEBRATE WITH DINNER...
RICHARD..
WHAT? OH...UM... AH... AH, YES... I, UH...
I THINK WE'LL, AH UM, LET YOU KIDS SETTLE IN. CALL TOMORROW?
YOU GOT IT, DAD. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP. YOU TOO, MOM--AUNT MAY--
WE LOVE YOU ALL. GET HOME SAFE NOW.

AM I DREAMING? IS IT JUST YOU AND ME--ALL ALONE IN OUR OWN PLACE?!
DARE TO DREAM, TIGER.
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE AS GOOD AS SHOWING OFF YOUR SPIDER-STRENGTH IN FRONT OF THE PARENTS TODAY? THE EUPHORIA OF THE MOMENT?
MAYBE. THEY ARE MY PARENTS. NOW THAT THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING GREAT, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHOW YOU.
SHOULDN'T WE UNPACK FIRST?
IT CAN WAIT.
ALL THE GRIEF I'VE GIVEN YOU LATELY ABOUT BEING SPIDER-MAN.--I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT'S OVER.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T STOP BEING SPIDER-MAN. HE SERVES A PURPOSE. HE DOES A LOT OF GOOD.
GETTING OUT OF YOUR WAY ISN'T ENOUGH. I WANT TO HELP--WITH THAT.
EH? CARE TO EXPLAIN?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, MR. PARKER.
THEN I'LL HAVE TO SEE FOR MYSELF, MRS. PARKER.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

TOM TALKS

Have you ever noticed how many rumors you hear in the course of a day? Rumors about friends, enemies, politicians, celebrities, and people you don't even know? Some publications and television shows are devoted to spreading gossip!

The comic book industry also has its share of rumors. How many times have you walked into a comic book store and heard the "real" reason why a certain creative person quit a title, a particular comic is priced a certain way, or a favorite character is being killed? The people spreading these rumors usually claim to have inside sources of information.

They rarely do.

So where do they get their facts? Simple! They make them up! They present personal opinions and idle speculation as hard data.

In case you haven't noticed, this is an industry of story-tellers. We're constantly weaving tales of moral heroes who fight against overwhelming odds to defeat monstrous villains! It's a familiar scenario. There's always a good guy and a bad guy. You've seen it in countless comics. You routinely hear it in the rumor mill.

Most people like to portray themselves as heroes, and their enemies as villains. They like to emphasize victories, and ignore defeats. They take credit for triumphs, and blame mistakes on others.

Think about that the next time you read any interview or article. Think about the next time someone tells you the "inside" facts about the comic book industry ... or any other industry for that matter.

Stories our our business.
Our only business.
Thanks for being there,

Tom D.

MIGHTY MARVEL FAN PHONE (516)352-1212
IT'S THE COST OF A REGULAR CALL FROM ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND WON'T EXCEED 35 CENTS
YOUR INSIDE CONNECTION AT MARVEL

Heard any good rumors lately? There are a few of them floating around the Marvel Universe this past year, and we thought we'd take this page to lay a few of them to rest, while obscuring others.

Rumor: **Tom DeFalco** has been fired as Editor-In-Chief of Marvel Comics and replaced with **Fabian Nicieza, Roy Thomas,** or **Mark Gruenwald.**

The Truth: Tom has *not* been fired, nor has he quit. In fact, Tom will be in charge of Marvel Comics at least until the year 2099, if not beyond! Fabian wouldn't take the job — he couldn't afford the pay cut! Roy is happy writing 80 pages of CONAN a month, plus FANTASTIC FOUR UNLIMITED, and whatever else he can work in. And Mark is the world's most contented second banana.

Rumor: The FANTASTIC FOUR is being cancelled and replaced with a comic called FANTASTIC FORCE.

The Truth: The FANTASTIC FOUR is *not* being cancelled. We wouldn't cancel the World's Greatest Comics Magazine now, would we? Especially not with a movie version rarin' to be released. As for FANTASTIC FORCE, does the term "spin-off" mean anything to you?

Rumor: Marvel will soon be publishing 200 titles a month.

The Truth: This is a ridiculous, completely unfounded rumor. The truth is that we will eventually be publishing *300* titles a month! We want every Marveloid to be able to read ten new Marvels a day (which, by the way, is the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance)! You read it here first ... 300 titles a month by January 2099!

Rumor: Associate editor **Mike Lackey** is quitting comics to become a pro-wrestler.

The Truth: This one is true.

Rumor: All the Executive Editors at Marvel are going to be fired and replaced with X-Men Group Editor **Bob Harras.**

The Truth: This is another preposterous one. Anyone who knows Bob knows that he has no interest in taking over the company. Bob is much too busy ruling his X-Empire, which encompasses not only comics, but also video games, toys, a Saturday morning cartoon series ... Let's face it, Bob is more powerful than any Executive Editor could ever be!

Rumor: Marvel President **Terry Stewart** is running for President of the United States in '96.

The Truth: This one is not true, but we hear Ross Perot may be looking for a new running mate, so who can say ...?

Rumor: **Stan Lee** is leaving Marvel to work for the competition.

The Truth: Stan Lee is *not* leaving Marvel! Stan is one of the founding fathers of Marveldom. Stan is a good father — he would never turn his back on his babies! He is the Walt Disney to our mouse ... the Hugh Hefner to our rabbit ... the Steven Spielberg to our dinosaur.

And besides, it would break his heart to look at the top of each of our mighty mags and see the words, "Tom DeFalco Presents ..."

Those are just a few of the rumors floating around the offices these days. Glad we were able to clear the air. Till next time, remember, a rumor is not true unless we made it up first!

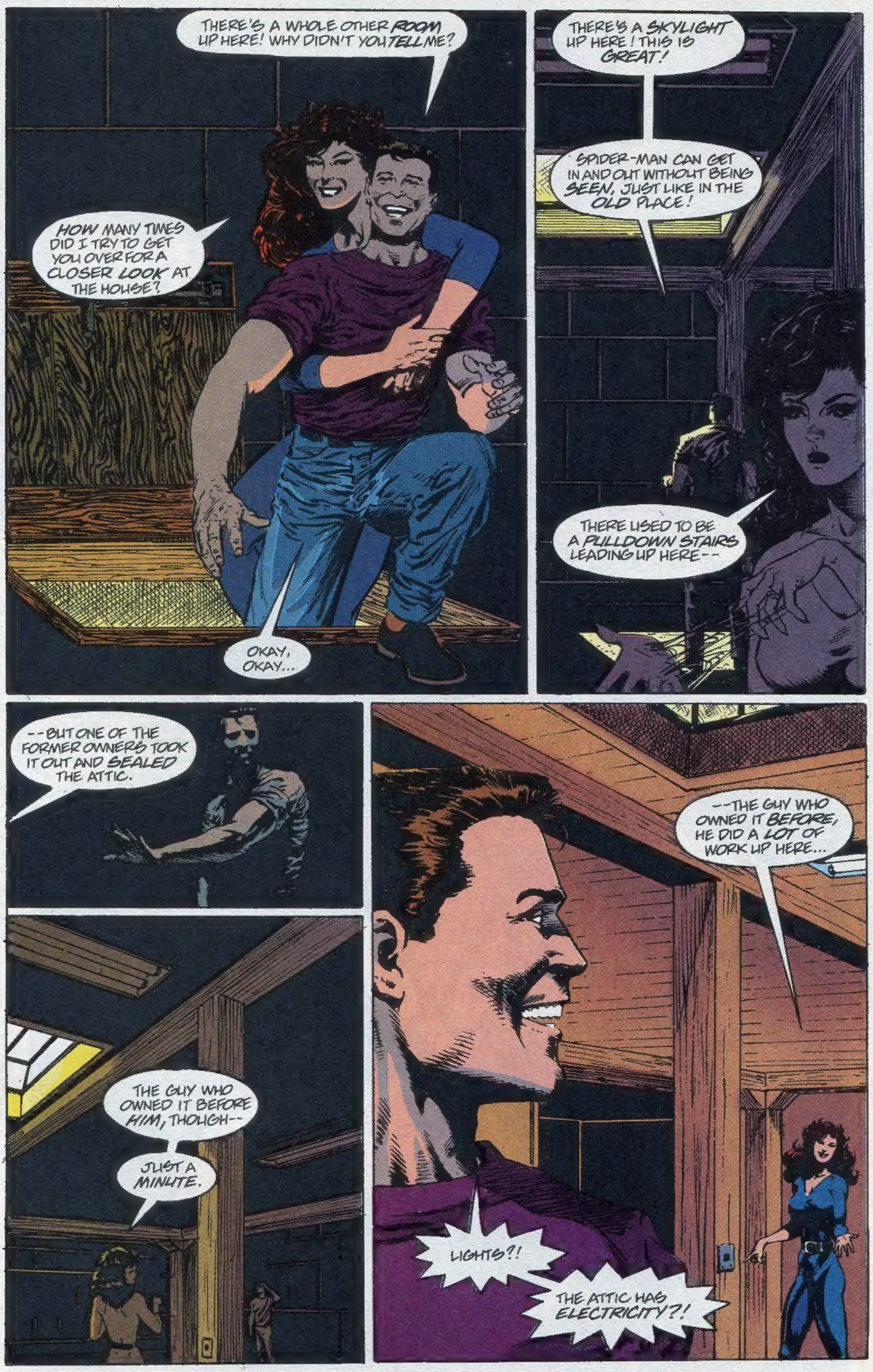
THE BULL'S EYE

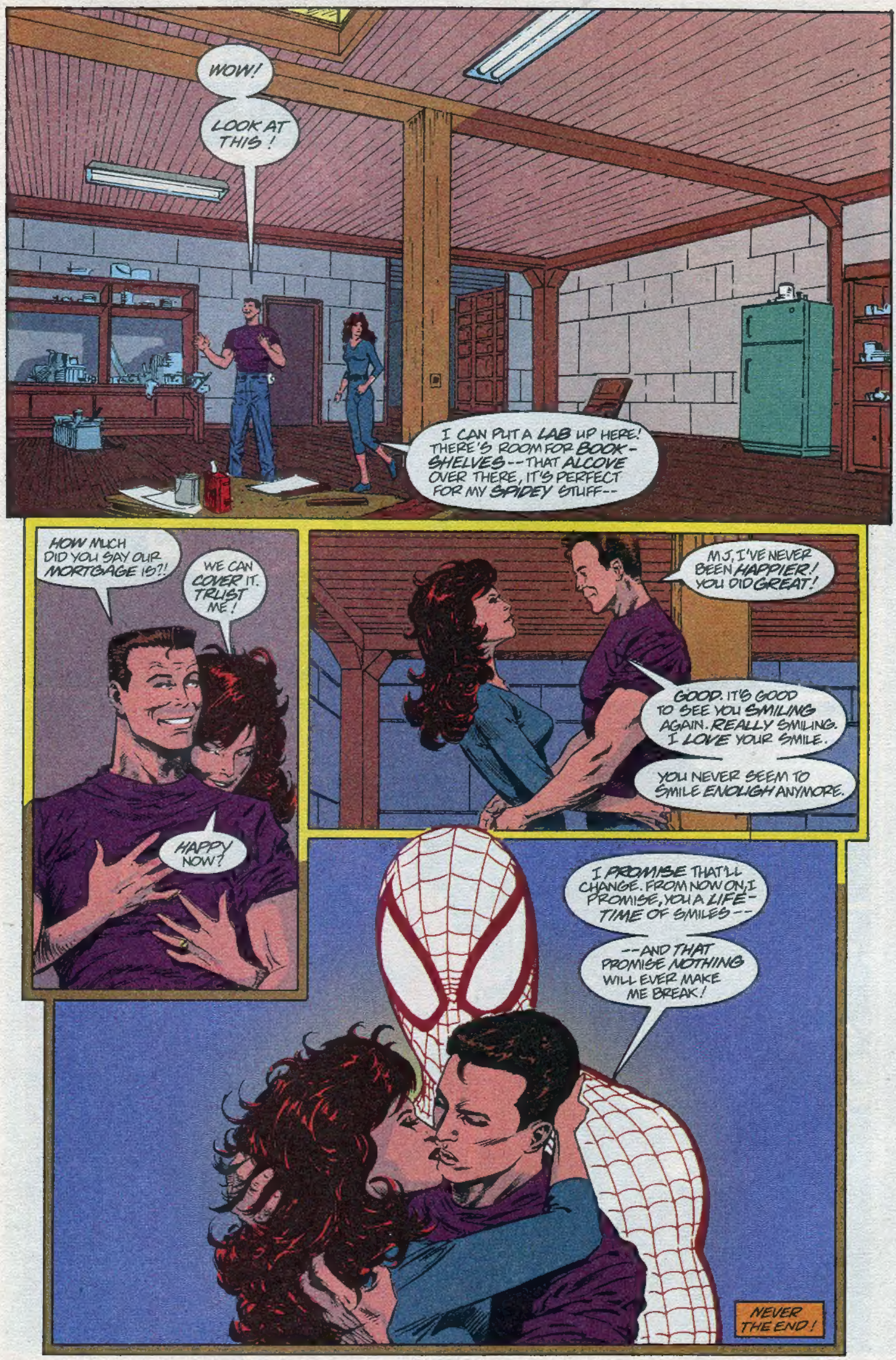
by RICK PARKER

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **AVENGERS STRIKE FILE #1:** Pin-ups, short stories, & more!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL: MAN WITHOUT FEAR #4 OF 5:** Krushed by the Kingpin!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK #31:** Deathlok, 1970s model vs. Deathlok, 1990s model!
- ☐ **HELLSTORM #10:** Daimon fights his Dad!
- ☐ **HOKUM & HEX #5:** With Bloodshed for all!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #146:** All Midnight Sons issue!
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT DECEMBER 1993:** Free checklist!
- ☐ **METEOR MAN #6 OF 6:** Based on the hit movie!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS #43: Marvel Boy** is back — with a new name and costume!
- ☐ **PUNISHER 2099 #12: Valhalla** comes tumbling down!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #208:** "Siege of Darkness" crossover!
- ☐ **STRANGE COMBAT TALES #4 OF 4:** Gory, bloody action!
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORLD #17:** Concluding TEKLORDS!
- ☐ **VENOM: THE MADNESS #3 OF 3:** Jossled by the Juggernaut!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #30:** Save up your quarters — Arcade is back!

QUIRQUE SHOPS IMAGINARY STAIRCASES CELESTIAL ENCOUNTERS RUSH ROOMS PROFIT CENTER VIRTUAL CIRCLE POLITICAL SCALE MACHO PAGE FABULA RASA COURTSHIP MANAGEMENT TEAMING VOTER VINDICATION MOLECULAR ARCHITECTURE BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER FEDERICO FELLINI INSTITUTIONAL BLESSING GUITAR DESECRATION HONEYMOON HOUSE A PRIVATE PHONE IN EVERY ROOM DO-GOOD MODERN FUZZ AND FUZZY RAYMOND BURR SILENT TREATMENT KUNG FOOT EXTINCT CUTTONEETS KITCHEN CABINET


THERE'S A WHOLE OTHER ROOM UP HERE! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
HOW MANY TIMES DID I TRY TO GET YOU OVER FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HOUSE?
OKAY, OKAY...
THERE'S A SKYLIGHT UP HERE! THIS IS GREAT!
SPIDER-MAN CAN GET IN AND OUT WITHOUT BEING SEEN, JUST LIKE IN THE OLD PLACE!
THERE USED TO BE A PULLDOWN STAIRS LEADING UP HERE--
--BUT ONE OF THE FORMER OWNERS TOOK IT OUT AND SEALED THE ATTIC.
THE GUY WHO OWNED IT BEFORE HIM, THOUGH--
JUST A MINUTE.
--THE GUY WHO OWNED IT BEFORE, HE DID A LOT OF WORK UP HERE...
LIGHTS?!
THE ATTIC HAS ELECTRICITY?!


WOW!
LOOK AT THIS!
I CAN PUT A LAB UP HERE! THERE'S ROOM FOR BOOK-SHELVES--THAT ALCOVE OVER THERE, IT'S PERFECT FOR MY SPIDEY STUFF--
HOW MUCH DID YOU SAY OUR MORTGAGE IS?!
WE CAN COVER IT. TRUST ME!
HAPPY NOW?
MJ, I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER! YOU DID GREAT!
GOOD. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU SMILING AGAIN. REALLY SMILING. I LOVE YOUR SMILE.
YOU NEVER SEEM TO SMILE ENOUGH ANYMORE.
I PROMISE THAT'LL CHANGE. FROM NOW ON, I PROMISE, YOU A LIFE-TIME OF SMILES--
--AND THAT PROMISE NOTHING WILL EVER MAKE ME BREAK!
NEVER THE END!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Mark and Danny,

Well, Mark, welcome to the series. Any comments I have about your taking over this comic you went over in your little editorial. Now, I'd like to welcome Steven to this series with a Scott Ziemba Award for writing on a comic book. He took over my favorite comic book, which was made so by J.M.'s writing. But no comparison can be made, since their writing styles are so different., J.M. is more psychological, while Steven goes back to what he knows, which is no stranger to this comic: the gang war.

Seeing both Tombstone and Hammerhead was a welcome addition to this comic. Tombstone beating up Hammerhead was a shocker, but now Lonnie has his gang. The will, as well as the "gotcha" gift, was also a surprise. I hope Harry does stay dead, because bringing him back so soon would make such a great issue as #200 a waste. But back to the regular story. I look forward to Tombstone making mincemeat out of Flash. I hope Spidey is watching over you, Flash, because you are in over your head. I look forward to next issue.

Scott Ziemba
1210 W. George
Chicago, IL 60657

Wow! Another award! We're gonna have to start giving these things away soon. Seriously, though, everyone is thrilled to be held in such high regard. Thanks, Scott!

Dear Speculatin' Spider-Men:

Re: Spectacular Spider-Man #204:

Speculating because I am doing just that because DeMatteis, the (dare I say it?) definitive Spidey writer of the '90s has left our title. His stories were brilliant because they were so complex, so un-slugfest-like, so deep.

Steven Grant, those are big shoes to fill. I see you're going for the now-familiar gang War Usurper story arc and I hope for the sake of all Spidey fans you don't disappoint. Let's have some surprises, man. So far, so good.

This was a good building issue, tying (or should I say, untying) up plotlines and introducing new threads. Harry's video-will really gave me the willies! And then Spidey's conclusion that he's alive?!? That threw me for a loop. I can't wait to see MJ chew Parker out for his "little talk" with Liz!

Lastly, I'd like to send out a message to Flash. You moron! An ambulance is nothing in comparison to your life! Let the bastard take it while you get medical attention for the two paramedics. Play the hero on your own time!

Good luck, folks.

Peter Moore
13 Springhill Park
52063 Range Road #225
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8C 1C3 Canada

Whew! Admittedly, Flash was taking his life in his own hands, but he did it to ensure that the wounded would live long enough to make it to the hospital. Flash knew that other lives were riding on his actions besides his own.

Dear Spectacular Spider-Men,

In "Death by Tombstone" part one (issue #204), it started out by Tombstone coming into Hammerhead's office, but in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #131, Hammerhead dies. In Amazing #157, we see the ghost of Hammerhead haunting Doc Ock, but as far as I can remember, Hammerhead took on no physical form. If I am wrong, tell me an issue number where he gets his body back.

Until Spider-Man teams up with Tombstone to destroy the planet Pluto, make mine Marvel!

Isaac Johnson
217 Kennedy
Sikeston, MO 63801

Oh, the irony, Isaac! In that very same issue in which Hammerhead was a "ghost" (#157), Doc Ock inadvertently turned the mobster back into his physical form. It seems that the good Doctor tried to get rid of Hammerhead by spreading his atoms all over the place with a particle accelerator. Instead, the machine served only to reform Hammerhead's body back to normal. Well, normal for him, anyway.

Dear SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN,

I love your "Death by Tombstone" series, but I have a few questions.

1) Why does Tombstone whisper?

2) Where does Tombstone come from?

3) What's with "Taps" in the back of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN.

4) Did Tombstone kill Spidey (as if I didn't know)?

Anyway, keep up the good work!

Charlie Philbrick
26 Winthrop St.
Northhampton, MA 01060

That's a lot of questions, Charlie. Let's see what we can do. 1) Tombstone whispers because he has a really squeaky voice and he doesn't want his friends to know. 2) The origin of Tombstone was partially revealed in SPECTACULAR #139, in which we learned that Tombstone and Joe Robertson were childhood rivals. The full story of Tombstone continues to be a mystery. 3) "Taps" is a special three-part tale featuring J. Jonah Jameson which is just the beginning of big changes in both his life and the Bugle's. 4) As if you didn't know.

Dear Mark,

I wish you well as you begin your run on SPECTACULAR. I have enjoyed your first chapter of "Death by Tombstone." The only part I question is when you raise the issue of Harry still being alive. Please don't do this, and it looks like you won't. But the whole sequence ended kind of abruptly, and hopefully you will deal with Spider-Man's reaction in future issues. I just had to wonder why it was brought up at all since it seemed to go nowhere.

One thing--I hope this (and other Spidey titles) will get into is the spectacular line-up of supporting characters. One of the reasons for my continued support of my favorite comic book character is his wonderful cast. This past summer with all the Carnage stuff the supporting cast was all but forgotten. I'd like to know what is going on with Betty Leeds, Glory Grant and Mrs. Jameson, among others. Hopefully, you won't forget about Robbie Robertson's connections to Tombstone. I thought his family made for compelling storytelling when they last appeared. And seeing how Flash is brought into the fray, it would be a good time to deal with how Felicia and Flash are doing. How has he reacted to her becoming the Black Cat again? I'm probably in the minority, but I care more about these people than Carnage and Venom.

Jeff Lewis
2129 N Drury Ln
Peoria, IL 61604

Jeff, the will sequence was intended to serve as an epilogue to the Green Goblin saga and a reminder that his passing--and the manner in which he passed away--still has an impact on Spidey's psyche. Supporting cast? Look no further! Glory Grant, Maria Madison, Flash, and Felicia will all be appearing in these pages in the months to come. In fact, Flash and Felicia will be starring in a two-part backup feature beginning in issue #209. That feature will lead into a BLACK CAT limited series by Terry (WEB OF SPIDER-MAN) Kavanagh and Andrew (X-MEN ADVENTURES) Wildman! As for Betty Leeds, keep a close eye on the events within the pages of WEB OF SPIDER-MAN! You heard it here first!

Dear Spectacular Crew,

I've just read issue #204, and all I have to say is: *don't you dare kill Flash Thompson!* I thought it was great when he and Felicia got together, and I have been waiting patiently for you to develop and use their relationship more in the story. It really makes for an interesting story (especially now that Felicia's back in action as the new and improved Black Cat). Hey! That's a good idea! Let's have Felicia show up and rescue Flash in the nick of time. I bet she could give ol' Tomby a run for his money! Well, on second thought, how about Felicia and Spidey both showing up for a rescue? Anyway, however you decide to do it, please spare Flash. Okay?

Jesse Wood
Box 516
Channelview, TX 77530

What is this, the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-FLASH? Anyway, keep reading for important changes in store for Flash.

NEXT ISSUE: There's MAJOR trouble brewing within the Foreigner's assassins guild--namely, revolt! And Spidey has to decide what's worse--a horde of the world's deadliest assassins, or *the* deadliest . . .